Closure of Nizam's Jewellery Exhibition

726. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in The Hindu, dated the 16th May, 2002, captioned "Jagmohan orders closure of Nizam's Jewels Exhibition";

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for closure of the exhibition;

(c) whether Government are aware of strong public feeling of the people of Andhra Pradesh in the matter which was communicated by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to the Prime Minister; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to honour the assurance of the Prime Minister in this regard given to the Chief Minister?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The exhibition was on display for over 6 months at Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad. The number of daily visitors had reduced considerably due to prolong display. The exhibition had started incurring heavy losses. Therefore, it was decided to close the exhibition.

(c) Some representations have been received.

(d) The State Government has been informed that there would be absolutely no difficulty in bringing the jewels back to Hyderabad for display as and when the required permanent arrangements are made with the funds to be made available by the State Government.

Foreign Tourist Trafic

727. DR. VIJAY MALLYA :
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Tourist traffic has dropped by 15 to 20 per cent amounting to 2.3 per cent decline in foreign exchange earnings after September 11, terrorist attack;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is working out to attract domestic tourists to consolidate the Indian tourism industry, if so, the details thereof;